

**REMARKS**

With this Amendment, Applicants cancel claim 4. Therefore, claims 1-3 and 5-13 are all the claims currently pending in this Application.

**Claim Amendments**

With this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1-3 and 5-13 for clarity and precision of language and in order more fully to cover various aspects of Applicants' invention as disclosed in the specification. All amendments are fully supported in the originally-filed specification.

Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

**Prior Art Rejections**

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Sato (WO 01/59508; related to U.S. 6,864,862) in view of Weindorf (U.S. 2002/0140880) and Holman (U.S. 6,871,982). As noted above, claim 4 is canceled.

Regarding independent claim 1, Applicants submit that none of the cited references, either alone or in reasonable combination, disclose or suggest a linear light source comprising:

a plurality of center prisms, disposed in the center portion, and  
a plurality of peripheral prisms, disposed in the peripheral portions,  
wherein the center prisms focus light passing therethrough to a greater  
degree than the peripheral prisms; and  
wherein the center prisms and the peripheral prisms each include a  
light-inputting surface which receives light from a point light-emitting  
source and a light-outputting surface opposite the light-inputting surface.

Sato is generally directed to a stereoscopic display system for viewing without special glasses. According to the background art of Sato, an LCD unit is backlit by a backlight light source 13. Light from the backlight 13 passes through right- and left-eye polarizing filters 14a

and 14b. the light then passes through a Fresnel lens 11. The display unit includes two polarizing filters 21 and 22 and an LCD panel disposed therebetween.

The Examiner acknowledges that Sato fails to disclose or suggest the claimed linear light source, and thus relies of Weindorf and Holman.

Regarding Weindorf, the Examiner notes that this reference describes an array of LEDs electrically connected in parallel (Office Action, page 4, referring to Weindorf, Figure 4). Thus, Applicants note that the Examiner may have misinterpreted the presently-claimed invention which is unrelated to the way in which LEDs are electrically connected.

Regarding the claimed prisms, the Examiner refers to Holman which describes an illumination system with an LED array light source. A planar array of LEDs is combined with an array of “reflecting bins” and a prismatic film.

None of the references disclose or suggest a light source having center prisms and peripheral prisms, where the center prisms focus light to a greater degree, and where each of the prisms includes a light-inputting side and an opposite light-outputting side.

Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. Claims 2, 3, and 5-13 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies and for the additional limitations recited therein.

Applicants respectfully request that the prior art rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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**Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

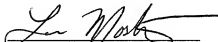
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